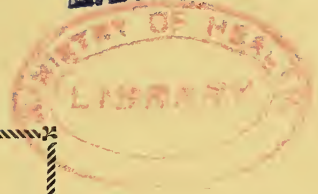


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CLITHEROE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL
REPORT
FOR 1941.

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE

M.A , M.B., B.CH. (CANTAB)
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report
for the year ended December 31st, 1941.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE.

CLITHEROE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my report for the year ending December 31st, 1941, on the Sanitary conditions and Administration of the Rural District.

As last year, the Ministry of Health in their Circular state that "the Minister has considered the desirability of the Reports being curtailed during the War, and he is satisfied that, while an entire discontinuance of annual reports during this period would not be in the interests of local government, the report might be without disadvantage materially shortened. Many items which usually appear may be omitted entirely, and those which are retained may be dealt with as briefly as possible." Certain items, such as population, etc., have to be omitted this year.

I have therefore based this report on the headings and instructions contained in the Minister's Circular.

There have not been any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to have had a prejudicial effect on health, or any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

The Medical Officer is J. M. Postlethwaite, M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Cantab.), M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Fellow of the Royal Institute of Public Health. Part-time and not in general practice.

The Sanitary Inspector is W. H. Jackson, who is a whole-time officer.

There are no other Public Health Officers of the Rural District.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Pathological specimens are sent to the Royal Infirmary, Wigan. There also exists an efficient laboratory at Calderstones, Whalley, which is now receiving casualties.

The ambulance facilities are sufficient ; the ambulance is on contract, and is available for all ordinary cases. Infectious cases are conveyed by the ambulance of the Blackburn Fever Hospital, to which most of our severe infectious cases are sent.

NURSING IN THE HOME.

There are two District Nurses, who do good and efficient work.

There are no special Clinics apart from those run by the County, and no Public or Voluntary Hospitals belonging to the District.

The main occupations are cotton weaving, agriculture and stone quarrying.

HOUSING.

The Housing conditions in this district are very good ; there is no real shortage of houses, and those in being are in good condition.

During the past year, 1941, 1954 houses have been inspected and the attention of the owners has been drawn to the various defects found.

The following improvements have been made :—

New roofs have been fixed at four houses.

New bedroom floors, fire ranges and food stores provided at two houses.

New gable end built at one house.

New windows, gutters, spouting fixed and the external walls cemented and roughcasted at three houses.

New windows, gutters, spouting, fresh-water closet, bath have been fixed, new drains of socketed stoneware pipes with cement joints laid from the house to a new septic tank and filter. New electric power house, coal house, and garage built.

Septic tanks and filters have been repaired, new ash-bins and excreta pails provided, and blocked drains unstopped.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

227 Cowsheds and Dairies have been inspected, and most of them were found satisfactory. The walls have been limewashed, the ceilings swept and the boskins washed. The Dairies and milk utensils were found very clean.

At two farms the cowsheds have been re-modelled, the scaffolds raised, the floors concreted, new windows and doors fixed, drain inlets removed from inside to the outside of the cowsheds.

At another farm a new roof has been fixed on the barn and cowshed, the floors of the cowsheds concreted.

At another farm three new windows have been fixed in the cowshed.

At another farm the cowshed floors have been concreted.

At another farm a new dairy with reception and sterilising rooms have been built.

At another farm one building has been converted into a dairy with reception, sterilising rooms and boiler-house.

At another farm the cowshed has been re-modelled, floor concreted, scaffolds raised, eight new windows fixed, new doors, automatic drinking fountains fixed and a new dairy built, electric light installed in all the buildings

At other farms the cowshed floors have been concreted, drain inlets removed from inside to the outside of cowsheds.

MILK.

During the year thirty-two samples of milk were collected and sent away for examination. Fifteen of the samples were found to be free from tubercle bacilli and in one sample tubercle bacilli was found. Repeat samples were taken from the cows at the farm in which tubercle bacilli had been found in the first sample. The result was that the cow was found to be suffering from tuberculosis and was slaughtered and dealt with as required by the Tuberculosis Order.

The number of Cowkeepers is 309.

The number of Dairy Farms is 218.

MILK SPECIAL DESIGNATION.

The number of persons licensed to produce milk under the above Order is :—

Accredited	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

CHEESE AND MILK DAIRIES.

There are three Dairies in the district, all of which are dealing with large quantities of milk. These Dairies are visited regularly and they are generally found very clean.

There is one Pasteurising plant and one licence issued for Pasteurised milk.

SCHOOLS.

The schools are visited regularly, and all of them are generally found very clean.

With the exception of Thornley, all the schools have a water supply laid on from the public supply. Thornley School has a supply from a spring, and is conveyed from the spring to the school in pipes.

SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY.

Chatburn, Downham and Worston are supplied from a covered reservoir which is fed by springs on Pendle Hill.

Chipping and Thornley from an open reservoir fed by springs on Wolfenden Fell.

Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Hurst Green and Stonyhurst from the Blackburn Corporation Waterworks. Some outlying farms get a supply from springs.

Pendleton from Pendle Hill.

Wiswell from an open reservoir fed from Whalley Moor.

Whalley from an open reservoir fed from Whalley Moor and a supplementary supply from the Clitheroe Corporation Waterworks.

The remaining water conditions are much the same as last year.

SEWERAGE.

There are sewage works at Chatburn, Barrow, Whalley and Stonyhurst.

The method of disposal is by sprinklers and land irrigation.

So far as I know all the works are in good working order and the effluent at the outfall works is satisfactory.

The Townships of Aighton, Bailey and Chaigley, Bowland with Leagram, Downham, Little Mitton, Thornley-with-Wheatley, Pendleton, Twiston and Worston are without a proper drainage system.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation at the end of 1941 was :—

Privy Closets	563
Pail Closets	232
Fresh-water Closets	837
Waste-water Closets	303

Conversions during the year are five pail closets to fresh-water closets, one waste-water closet to fresh-water closet.

SCAVENGING.

The villages of Chipping, Whalley, Barrow, Worston, Downham, Little Mitton, and the Barraclough district of Pendleton are done by direct labour, and have been done satisfactorily.

The villages of Chatburn, Wiswell and Pendleton are done by contract.

The refuse is removed during the day in open carts to tips. There is no destructor in the district.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in the district.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

These are all in a very good condition.

BAKEHOUSES.

The Bakehouses and other premises which are registered for the production of food have all been visited and were found satisfactory.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

The only one in this district now is at Stonyhurst College.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Inspections are made regularly at shops and vans, also at farms where pigs are allowed to be slaughtered by permits issued by the Food Control Officer.

ANTHRAX.

Only one case occurred in this district, though there have been several suspected ones reported, but on further investigation they have proved false alarms.

AMBULANCE.

The Ambulance facilities are the same as in previous years and appear adequate.

VITAL STATISTICS.

The number of Births is : Males, 31; Females, 30; Total, 61 ; making a Birth-rate of 6.7 per 1,000 per annum, against 7.8 last year.

Chipping Sub-District ...	11	Males,	13	Females.
Clitheroe	8	„	3	„
Whalley	12	„	14	„

The number of Deaths is 27 Males, 26 Females, Total 53 ; against 80 last year. The Death-rate is 5.9, against 8.7 last year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

At the beginning of the year there was an epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough.

During the year I undertook a scheme for Immunisation against Diphtheria, and was held up for some time by sickness in the schools, but eventually 624 children out of an estimated number of 915 were immunised in the following percentages : Under 5, 44.1%. Over 5, 82%.

It is important that the under 5's especially be immunised, but the response to the appeal was rather disappointing in their cases. The parents do not seem to quite realise the importance and silly prejudices sometimes prevail over common sense. There was also printed propaganda in existence from an Anti-Vaccination and Anti-Immunisation Society which, in my opinion, ought to be suppressed in the National interest.

The following were notified :—Measles, 77; Whooping Cough, 42 ; Scarlet Fever, 12 ; Diphtheria, 3 ; Paratyphoid, 1 ; Pneumonia, 9 ; Cerebrospinal Fever, 3 ; Dysentery, 11 ; Erysipelas, 1 ; Chicken-pox, 2. Pulmonary Tuberculosis 6. Non-Pulmonary, 1.

Disinfectants were supplied and the rooms disinfected when necessary.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

The causes of death were :— Males Females

Phthisis	1	...	0 (2 and 7 last year)
Cancer	5	...	9
Diabetes	0	...	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage ...	2	...	2
Heart Disease... ..	6	...	6
Other Circulatory Diseases	3	...	1
Bronchitis	3	...	4
Pneumonia	1	...	0
Blood Diseases	1	...	1
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	...	0
Digestive Diseases	1	...	0
Acute & Chronic Nephritis	0	...	1
Senility	1	...	0
Violence not Suicide ...	1	...	0
Accident at Birth	0	...	1

The rate of non-notified Tubercle deaths to total Tubercle deaths is nil.

The notification of Tuberculosis is efficient, and there has been no action taken in wilful neglect to notify, nor is there any excessive incidence of mortality from Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in this district.

There has been no action taken under the Public Health

(Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. M. POSTLETHWAITE,
M.A., M.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), M.R.C.S. (Eng.),

L.R.C.S. (Lon.),

Medical Officer of Health.

